

Annual Report 2005



Out of the 34 million orphans in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 11 million are Aids orphans. Between now and 2010, it is estimated that up to 20 million children may lose one or both of their parents to the disease.

School against Aids/SidEcole is at present active in **8 programmes** in Kampala, Mbale, Mpigi and Jinja (Uganda), Mkasanga and two other villages in Lusaka province (Zambia). **980 children and young people** are thus helped by SidEcole.

School fees for 253 primary pupils, 23 secondary students, 10 vocational students and 7 university students are guaranteed. In addition, school **materials and uniforms** are distributed to 277 other children. **500 meals** are distributed daily in two schools: the children receive a midday meal of posho (corn) and alternately a banana, an egg, milk or soya. **Books, musical instruments, arts and crafts material, benches and desks** have been provided. **Light repair work** - a cement floor to replace the dried mud in order to stop the parasites from getting under the children's skin - has been carried out.

The schools play a vital role in the **development of vulnerable**



children: they provide a place with a structure which helps the children to acquire not only elementary knowledge but also information on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. School is also a **safe place** where the teachers provide the emotional support which this category of children is in particular need of for their psychosocial development. The teachers have commented that **the story books**

have diminished the psychological stress that the children have to deal with by bringing them moments of joy. They have noted improvements in their **learning capacity**.

The nutritional state of the children is much **improved**. They are more active, are showing signs of well-being and have put on weight. They seem to come to school with pleasure and attend regularly. Food, which is an essential element in the **ability to maintain concentration**, is an effective way of

improving the level of education. It is clear that children who do not eat may well fall asleep in class, this is called "immediate hunger syndrome".

However, the problem which our local partners now have to cope with is the attraction caused by the free meals; this is a reality that is sometimes hard to deal with in an environment of total insecurity.



The musical instruments are invaluable as music, dancing and drama are part of the school programme. In addition, the instruments enable the schools to keep **traditional songs** and **musical culture** alive.

The apprenticeship of activities like **weaving, sewing, and knitting** provides the children who are orphans with a **means of earning their living** and enable them to **survive** when they leave school. The children enjoy these workshops and the teachers have thought of setting them to further use; for example the school uniforms could be made locally.

The girls particularly enjoy these activities, whereas some of the boys avoid them, this is the result of cultural prejudice. SidEcole hopes to set up workshops in carpentry.

Transport to a dispensary which carries out free detection and treatment of HIV/AIDS has been provided for **200 children and their relatives** or "guardians".

The joint project with **the NGO Conservation Lower Zambezi** continues: 20 children come to the CLZ camp for 5 days and the mobile unit travels around the 40 villages to inform the adults, teachers and children about HIV/AIDS prevention. 6815 children and 2568 adults have taken part in discussions, seen 2 films and received brochures and condoms.



Our local partners work without respite, usually also on a voluntary basis, and more often than not they accomplish miracles with an absolute minimum of resources! With the help of School against Aids/SidEcole they have found the means to provide orphans with schooling, training and basic nutrition.

The young people we help have gained hope for a better future.